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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture  
  
Forest Service  
  
Chadron, Nebraska



# ISSUE IDENTIFICATION for **PRAIRIE DOG MANAGEMENT**

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**Nebraska  
National Forest  
and  
Related Range Management  
in Conata Basin  
and Scenic Basin**

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**Buffalo Gap  
National Grassland**



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ISSUE IDENTIFICATION  
FOR  
PRAIRIE DOG MANAGEMENT  
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NEBRASKA NATIONAL FOREST  
AND  
RELATED RANGE MANAGEMENT  
IN  
CONATA BASIN AND SCENIC BASIN  
-----  
BUFFALO GAP NATIONAL GRASSLAND

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Document One--Black-tailed Prairie Dog Management on the Nebraska National Forest and Associated Units.....	1
Document Two--Range Management Strategies for Two Major Prairie Dog Areas-Conata Basin and Scenic Basin-on the Buffalo Gap National Grassland.....	11
Public Involvement.....	25
Response Form.....	27



DOCUMENT ONE

BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG MANAGEMENT  
ON THE NEBRASKA NATIONAL FOREST  
AND  
ASSOCIATED UNITS



## BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG MANAGEMENT ON THE NEBRASKA NATIONAL FOREST AND ASSOCIATED UNITS

The Land and Resource Management Plan for the Nebraska National Forest (NNF) and associated units has been prepared and is now being implemented as required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (RPA, P.L. 93-378) and National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA, P.L. 94-588). It was stated in the Record of Decision for the Plan that a review of the current management direction for prairie dogs would be forthcoming and that appropriate new analyses and public involvement would be completed. This review has been initiated by an interdisciplinary team, and this document represents the first phase of the public involvement process.

This document describes the affected National Forest System (NFS) lands, the management situation, and several alternatives for future management including a proposed action. It's important to point out that some of the alternatives discussed in this document include management actions that involve the Sage Creek Wilderness Area in the Badlands National Park (BNP). The National Park Service is agreeable to this since the management actions called for in the alternatives are in line with the Natural Resource Management Plan and Environmental Assessment approved for the Park in 1984.

### THE LAND

The NNF administrative unit includes the Nebraska National Forest, Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest, and the Oglala, Buffalo Gap, and Ft. Pierre National Grasslands (see map 1). These NFS lands total approximately 351,000 acres in Nebraska and 707,900 acres in South Dakota.

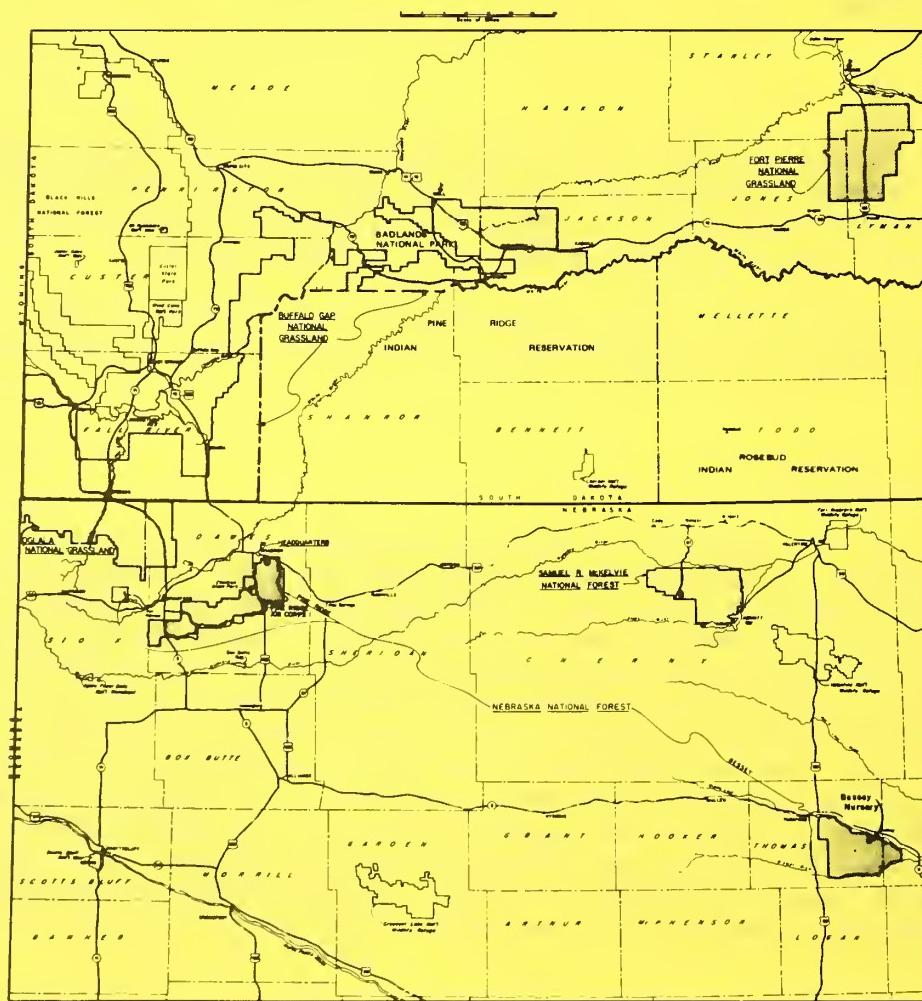
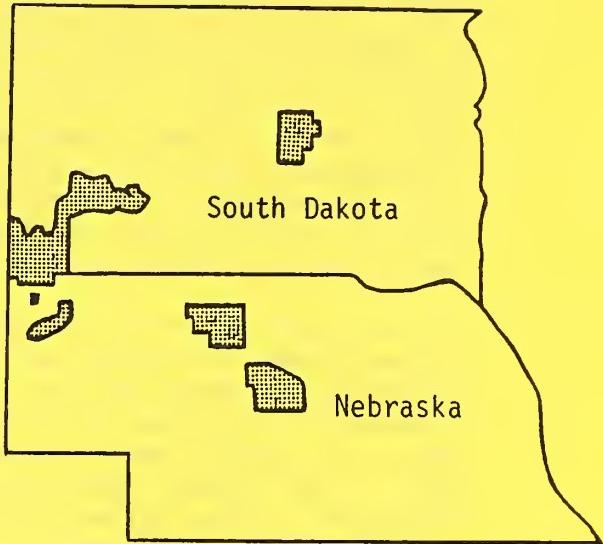
The Sage Creek Wilderness covers approximately 64,000 acres in the Badlands National Park in South Dakota. It was officially designated wilderness in 1976.

### MANAGEMENT SITUATION

Black-tailed prairie dogs on the NNF and associated units have been managed during the last eight years under the direction provided in a 1978 Environmental Impact Statement and a 1981 amendment to that document. The general direction has been to reduce prairie dog populations to more manageable levels while maintaining sufficient prairie dog populations for various public uses such as sport-shooting and viewing, and for the wildlife species that are commonly found in association with prairie dogs. This direction was developed primarily in response to two concerns. The first concern commonly expressed by ranchers and landowners was the impact of expanding prairie dog populations on private lands adjacent to NFS lands, range conditions, and livestock forage. Several other publics were concerned about the effects of prairie dog poisoning on associated wildlife species, especially the endangered black-footed ferret.

## Nebraska National Forest and Associated Units Location Map

Region 2, Forest Service,  
United States Department of Agriculture



The Forest Service is evaluating several alternatives to the current management direction. From the agency's viewpoint, we believe that new information on the habitat requirements of black-footed ferrets needs to be considered and that the management program needs to be made more cost-effective. Comments that have already been received from various individuals and organizations also support the need for an evaluation of the current management program. These comments are summarized into the following main issues:

To what extent should prairie dog populations be controlled or reduced?

To what extent should prairie dog populations be managed to provide for the positive values associated with the species?

Should prairie dog populations in Conata Basin be managed as black-footed ferret habitat?

How can prairie dog populations be managed to reduce or prevent unwanted movement of prairie dogs from NFS lands to adjacent private lands?

How should prairie dogs be controlled?

Can the cost-effectiveness of the prairie dog management program be improved?

What are the hazards of prairie dog poisoning to other wildlife species and can potential hazards be reduced or eliminated?

Can prairie dog management programs on public and private lands be better coordinated?

In addition to these issues, pertinent laws and regulations that apply to the management of NFS lands must also be considered during this evaluation process. The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-205) requires that all federal departments and agencies shall seek to conserve endangered and threatened species and shall not authorize, fund or carry out any action that is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species. NFMA regulations in 36 CFR 219.19 require that habitat on National Forest System lands be managed to maintain viable populations of existing native and desired non-native vertebrate wildlife species.

#### MANAGEMENT GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND ALTERNATIVES

The management goal and objectives for prairie dog management are currently described as follows:

**GOAL** - Manage prairie dog populations and associated wildlife as an integral part of the prairie ecosystem in a cost effective manner, while considering the needs of adjacent private landowners.

**OBJECTIVES** - Maintain control of prairie dog populations at a selected level.

Maintain active prairie dog colonies at a level that provides for ecological and recreational values.

Provide for black-footed ferret management.

Coordinate prairie dog management program with adjoining lands.

Reduce costs of prairie dog management program consistent with meeting other objectives.

Integrate range management with prairie dog management by providing good to excellent range conditions; thus increasing mid to tall grass cover.

Several tentative alternatives have been identified and a brief description of each follows:

**ALTERNATIVE A. CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION FOR PRAIRIE DOGS AND FERRETS.**

Current management direction would continue unchanged. Prairie dog populations would continue to be reduced through rodenticide treatments and reduced livestock grazing to a level where a minimum of approximately 3,120 acres and 100 colonies would be maintained in an active status on NFS lands. Conata Basin on the Buffalo Gap National Grassland (BGNG) would continue to be emphasized for ferret habitat management using recommendations from an older ferret publication. Based on these recommendations, a minimum of approximately 1,520 acres and 32 colonies is maintained in an active status in a specified distribution on NFS and BNP lands in Conata Basin. Ferret habitat recommendations in a recent publication on ferret habitat near Meeteetsee, Wyoming, will not be implemented under this alternative. The livestock grazing reductions that were made under the 1978 EIS to help control prairie dogs would remain in effect.

**ALTERNATIVE B. CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION FOR PRAIRIE DOGS AND FERRETS BUT INCREASE EMPHASIS ON IMPROVED RANGE MANAGEMENT AS A LONG-TERM PRAIRIE DOG CONTROL METHOD.**

Current management direction would continue, but additional emphasis would be placed on range and livestock grazing practices that produce vegetation conditions less favorable for prairie dog colony expansion and establishment. Livestock grazing levels and grazing systems would be modified accordingly. The distribution of active prairie dog colonies for ferret habitat would remain the same as described under Alternative A. The most current ferret habitat recommendations would not be implemented.

ALTERNATIVE C. INCREASE EMPHASIS ON IMPROVED RANGE MANAGEMENT AND DISCONTINUE USE OF RODENTICIDES.

The only attempt to control prairie dog populations would be through range management practices that result in range conditions less suitable for prairie dogs. Livestock grazing levels and grazing systems would be modified accordingly. There would be no specified minimum or maximum limitations on the size and distribution of prairie dog colonies and no management actions directed at providing a specified prairie dog distribution as ferret habitat.

ALTERNATIVE D. INCREASE EMPHASIS ON IMPROVED RANGE MANAGEMENT AND BE PREPARED TO MANAGE FOR A VIABLE FERRET POPULATION. (This is the proposed action)

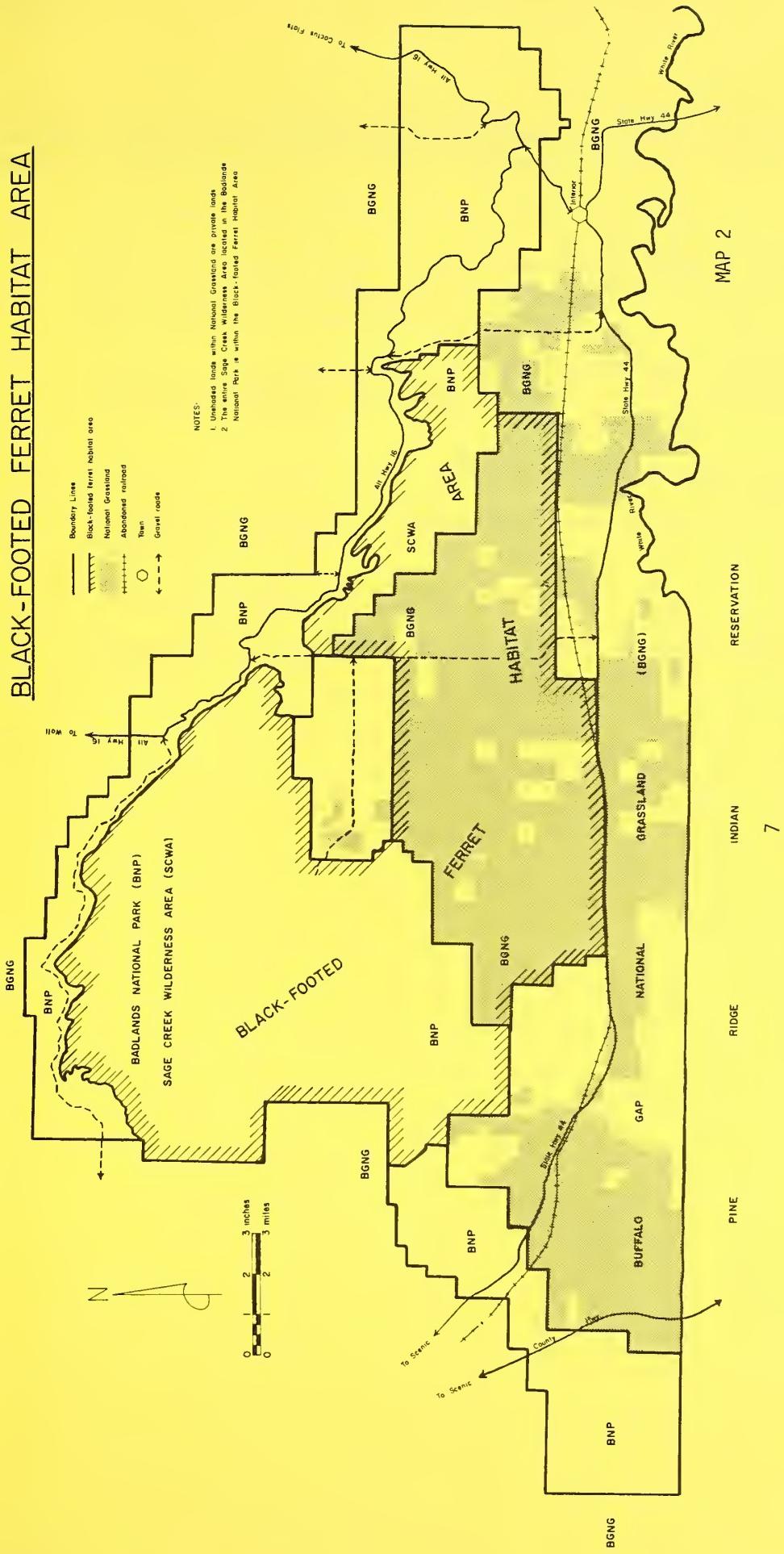
Improved range management practices and rodenticides would be used concurrently to control prairie dog populations. Livestock grazing levels and grazing systems would be modified accordingly. The number of active prairie dog colonies and their total acreage would remain the same as described under Alternative A, but the locations of the active colonies will be re-evaluated using several considerations including proximity to private lands. In the event of a ferret reintroduction proposal or a confirmed ferret sighting in Conata Basin, an area of approximately 95,000 acres involving part of the NFS lands in Conata Basin and the Sage Creek Wilderness on the BNP (see map 2) would be managed as a black-footed ferret habitat area. The most current information on ferret habitat requirements would be consulted in developing management guidelines, and this information is currently found in the recent publication on ferret habitat in Wyoming. Under this direction, approximately 6175 acres and 30 to 40 colonies would be maintained in an active status in the habitat area. Based on the current prairie dog distribution, this would result in the need to maintain approximately 4,000 acres and 15 to 20 colonies in an active status on the NFS lands in the habitat area.

This is an increase in the minimum active area on NFS lands in Conata Basin of approximately 2,480 acres.

ALTERNATIVE E. INCREASE EMPHASIS ON IMPROVED RANGE MANAGEMENT AND MANAGE FOR A VIABLE FERRET POPULATION.

Management direction is identical to Alternative D, except the ferret habitat guidelines would be implemented immediately. The additional acreage of active colonies would be obtained by allowing prairie dog populations in selected colonies in the proposed ferret habitat area to recover from previous rodenticide treatments.

## BLACK-FOOTED FERRET HABITAT AREA



MAP 2



Reference is made in Alternatives B through E to modifications in livestock grazing levels and grazing systems. The specific strategies involved in these modifications may include but are not limited to:

1. Rotational grazing systems (rest and/or deferment),
2. Restricting the number of new range improvements (livestock water developments and fences) to limit the number of sites suitable for establishing new colonies.
3. Changing allotment boundaries and/or combining allotments to reduce the need for new range improvements when implementing rotational grazing.
4. Changing the season when livestock grazing is permitted.
5. Changing the number of livestock and the length of time when grazing is permitted.
6. Assigning forage utilization standards.
7. Revegetating ranges (ripping, furrowing, plowing and seeding).



DOCUMENT TWO

RANGE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES  
FOR TWO MAJOR PRAIRIE DOG AREAS  
-CONATA BASIN AND SCENIC BASIN-  
ON THE  
BUFFALO GAP NATIONAL GRASSLAND



## RANGE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR TWO MAJOR PRAIRIE DOG AREAS-CONATA BASIN AND SCENIC BASIN-ON THE BUFFALO GAP NATIONAL GRASSLAND

Range management practices and the effects of livestock grazing on rangeland vegetation are important factors influencing prairie dog distribution and abundance. Range management practices and grazing can be used to help control prairie dog populations, and improve the long-term cost-effectiveness of prairie dog management and control. Therefore, several preliminary alternatives, with different combinations of range management practices and grazing schemes, have been developed for two major prairie dog areas on the Buffalo Gap National Grassland-Conata Basin and Scenic Basin. These alternatives are based on the current effort of the Nebraska National Forest (NNF) to reassess the general direction for black-tailed prairie dog management. Now is the appropriate time to also begin assessing how possible new range management direction could be specifically applied to allotments in Conata Basin and Scenic Basin.

The direction for range management in these areas must address not only the prairie dog/livestock issue but other established direction in the Land and Resource Management Plan. This direction addresses other issues such as riparian management, other wildlife considerations, and individual grazing permits. The alternatives presented in this document describe several ways of applying range management to meet the outlined goals and objectives.

### ISSUES, CONCERNs AND OPPORTUNITIES

Numerous comments on range management practices in Conata Basin and Scenic Basin have already been voiced by various individuals, organizations and agency personnel. These comments are summarized into the following main issues and concerns:

1. Should the current levels of livestock grazing be maintained?
2. How will changes in livestock grazing levels permitted on the National Forest System (NFS) lands in Conata Basin and Scenic Basin affect the viability of livestock operations?
3. What effects will allotment consolidation and rotational grazing have on livestock operations?
4. How can the cost-efficiecy of range management and administration in these areas be improved?
5. How will changes in allotment management affect private land within allotments?
6. What level of wildlife habitat should be provided on the NFS lands in Conata Basin and Scenic Basin?
7. How can riparian vegetation around stock dams be maintained or enhanced?

8. How will rotational grazing systems affect range condition?

9. To what degree should new range improvements be limited?

#### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL - Implement range management strategies in Conata Basin and Scenic Basin that will: (1) promote vegetation conditions less favorable for prairie dog colony expansion and establishment, and (2) comply with other established direction. Specific range management practices should conform to the following objectives:

1. Maintain good or excellent range conditions with the exception of active prairie dog areas.
2. Leave sufficient forage after livestock grazing to help control colony expansion and establishment.
3. Install only those structural range improvements (fences and water developments) that will minimize establishment of new prairie dog colonies.
4. Practice rotational grazing using rest or deferment.
5. Promote mid-grass and tall-grass species using applicable grazing strategies.
6. Use the most cost-efficient grazing management strategies.
7. Provide for viable livestock operations.
8. Provide for prescribed prairie dog populations.

#### MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

In order to achieve the stated objectives, the following specific practices should be considered and used where necessary:

1. Grazing systems utilizing rest and/or deferment.
2. Changes in grazing seasons.
3. Changes in cattle stocking rates.
4. Changes in allotment boundaries. This includes combining allotments.
5. Vegetation manipulation (ripping, furrowing, plowing, seeding)
6. Assigning of maximum allowable utilization of vegetation.

Using the above practices would allow for individual livestock permittees to be relocated in order to implement grazing systems and alter allotment stocking rates. Relocation of permittees may avert any AUM reductions as well as increasing the efficiency of an individuals' livestock operation.

#### PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES

The following charts and maps describe five preliminary alternatives. Alternative 1 is the current management situation. Alternatives 2 through 5 show a preliminary look at possible ways to utilize the described management practices to accomplish the objectives. Please note the following as you review the alternative descriptions and maps:

Other alternatives are possible using different combinations of allotments.

Under alternatives 2 through 5, a choice of grazing system (deferred rotation or rest-rotation) is shown. We would like your input as to the type of grazing system you feel is appropriate (and why).

In alternative 1, the column that indicates the 1984-85 control acres represents the total number of acres that are currently controlled in that allotment. Adding the control acres and the active acres will give you the total acres of prairie dogs for each allotment. This information is pertinent for the current situation and may not apply to the other alternatives.

Acres per AUM represent the initial stocking rates and may increase or decrease depending on how the goals are being met.

Terms used on the chart describing each alternative are defined below:

c/c - cow-calf pair

b - bull

y - yearling

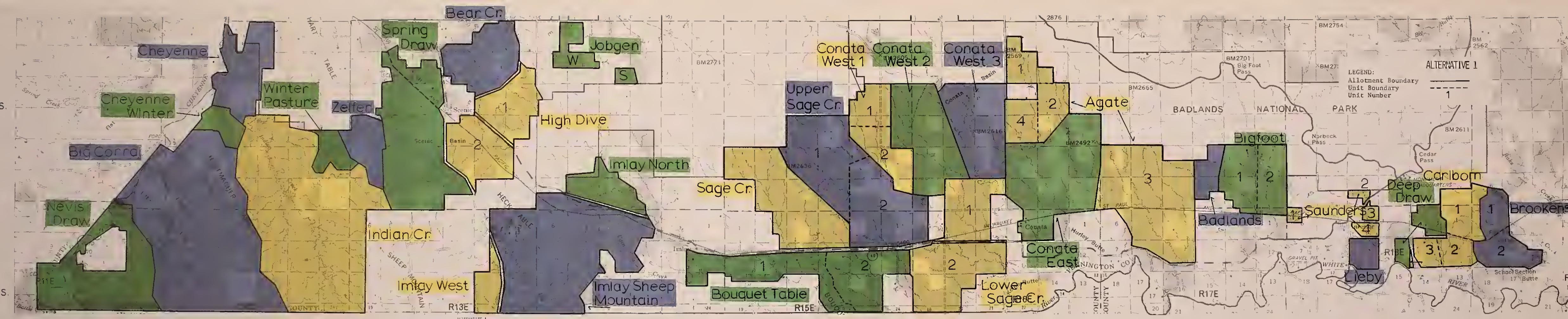
AUM - animal unit month; the amount of forage required by one mature cow  
(1,000 lbs.) or the equivalent for one month.

SEASON LONG - The grazing of a specific allotment or unit by livestock for the entire permitted season.

DEFERRED ROTATION - In an allotment with more than one unit, the grazing period for the units is systematically rotated so that each unit receives deferment through the growing season at least once during the rotational sequence.

REST-ROTATION - In an allotment with more than one unit, the grazing period for the units is systematically rotated so that each unit receives rest (no grazing) for one full year.





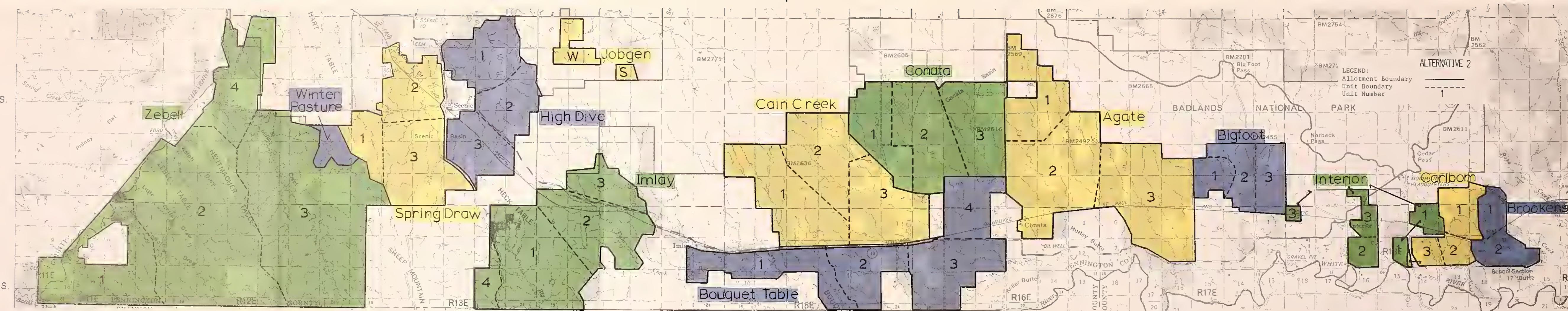
Note: Alternative 1 is a separate cultural environment as directed by the 1978 EIS and 1981 amendment which set livestock nucleus for individual allotments as specified in table below.

ALLOTMENT	PERMITTER	LIVESTOCK SUITABLE				TYPE OF GRADING SYSTEM	SEASON	PRAIRIE DOG ACTIVE AREA AC. CONTROL AC.	
		NUMBERS	ACRES	AUMS	ACRE/AUM			1980-81	1980-85
BADLANDS	Kruze Partnership	745 c/c	1,399	1,511	4.9	REST ROTATION	5/16 - 6/30	370	700
BALD	Alton Grotts	9 c/c	658	62	10.6	SEASON LONG	5/18 - 10/31	50	70
BALE	Wende Elzof	7 c/c	160	15	3.9	SEASON LONG	5/16 - 10/31	----	----
BEAR CREEK	Marvin Jobgen	63 c/c	1,317	472	4.1	SEASON LONG	5/18 - 10/31	----	----
BIG CREEK	Wendy Elzof Charles Taylor Donald Thorsen	18 c/c 17 c/c 16 c/c	2,021	2,127	4.3	SEASON LONG	5/16 - 1/15	110	20
TOTAL		245							
BIGFOOT	Ralph White	168 c/c	3,754	887	3.1	DEFERRED ROTATION	5/18 - 10/31	----	----
BOGGET TABLE	Ralph White Walter Whitcher George Ranch	20 c/c 41 c/c 25 c/c	170	741	----	DEFERRED ROTATION	5/16 - 10/31	50	805
TOTAL		95							
BROOKERS	Horatio Amstutz	158 c/c	1,793	761	2.3	DEFERRED ROTATION	5/1 - 7/31	----	50
CARLSON	Charles Carlson	170 c/c	2,073	687	3.1	DEFERRED ROTATION	5/12 - 10/31	----	----
CHEYENNE	Donald Thorsen	67 c/c	2,674	628	3.9	SEASON LONG	5/16 - 10/30	----	----
CHEYENNE WINTER	Donald Thorsen	79 c/c	101 c	101	2.7	SEASON LONG	5/1 - 12/31	----	----
TOTAL		531							
CONATA EAST	Walter	357 c/c	1,209	875	6.4	SEASON LONG	5/16 - 6/30	75	840
CONATA WEST 1	Walter Wether	69 c/c	765	719	3.3	DEFERRED ROTATION	5/10 - 10/31	115	550
CONATA WEST 2	Miller Wether	114 c/c	7,748	877	9	SEASON LONG	5/16 - 6/30	----	425
CONATA WEST 3	Elmer Wether	106 c/c	3,312	630	5.3	SEASON LONG	5/16 - 6/30	100	----
ELF DRAW	Gullill Firee	81 c/c	1,038	409	7.0	DEFERRED ROTATION	5/21 - 10/14	----	140
HIGH DIVE	Ralph White Mervin Jobgen Duane Jobgen Donald Jobgen	81 c/c 40 c/c 36 c/c 78 c/c	241	164	1.5	DEFERRED ROTATION	5/16 - 10/31	----	700
TOTAL		121 c/c	3,394	970	5.2	DEFERRED ROTATION	5/16 - 10/31	----	700

ALLOTMENT	PERMITTER	LIVESTOCK SUITABLE				TYPE OF GRADING SYSTEM	SEASON	PRAIRIE DOG ACTIVE AREA AC. CONTROL AC.	
		NUMBERS	ACRES	AUMS	ACRE/AUM			1980-81	1980-85
IMLAY NORTH	Kudene Ranch	17 c/c	1,192	117	10.5	SEASON LONG	5/16 - 10/31	----	----
IMLAY SHEEP MT	Ralph White Mervin White Kudene Ranch	101 c/c 37 c/c 97 c/c	642 198 675	----	----	SEASON LONG	5/16 - 10/31	595	817
TOTAL		311	7,653	1,314	5.1				
IMLAY WEST	Ralph White	88 c/c	404	90	5.0	SEASON LONG	5/16 - 1/15	100	----
INDIAN CREEK	Alvin Istelov Donald Taylor Elmer Taylor	81 c/c 157 c/c 115 c/c	574 1,140 875	----	----	SEASON LONG	5/1 - 10/31	75	135
TOTAL		259	7,779	2,349	3.1				
TODDEN SUMMER	Deneil Jobgen	18 c/c	240	82	8.7	SEASON LONG	5/16 - 10/31	----	----
JODGEN WINTER	Deneil Jobgen	115 c/c	600	775	3.1	SEASON LONG	5/1 - 1/31	----	----
LOWER GAGE CREEK	Wallace Whitcher Jesseold Heinrichs	47 c/c 62 c/c	310 807	----	----	SEASON LONG	5/15 - 10/31	195	1,070
TOTAL		129	3,162	707	8.0				
NETTIS DRAW	Vernon Shanell Bale	30 c/c 61 c/c	363 443	----	----	SEASON LONG	5/1 - 10/31	----	110
TOTAL		311	3,359	878	4.2				
EATIE CREEK	Ralph & James Whitcher	78 c/c	7,940	865	6.4	SEASON LONG	5/15 - 8/30	80	485
SAUNDERS	Gottill Farms	41 c/c	754	284	4.3	DEFERRED ROTATION	5/21 - 9/3	----	10
SPRING DRAW	Alvin Istelov Judson Estate	123 c/c 315 c/c	693 632	----	----	SEASON LONG	5/16 - 10/31	----	738
TOTAL		726	6,180	1,725	3.0				
UPPER GAGE CREEK	Ralph White Mervin White Walter Whitcher Duane Jobgen Kudene Ranch	21 c/c 30 c/c 46 c/c 15 c/c 14 c/c	152 151 384 100 100	----	----	SEASON LONG	5/18 - 10/31	295	1,575
TOTAL		170	5,548	811	3.0				
ZELFER	Paul Jobgen Winter Delt	125 c/c 10 c/c	1,372 761	808	1.9	SEASON LONG	5/25 - 9/30	----	----
TOTAL		125	3,394	970	5.2	DEFERRED ROTATION	5/16 - 10/31	295	1,575

ALTERNATIVE 1

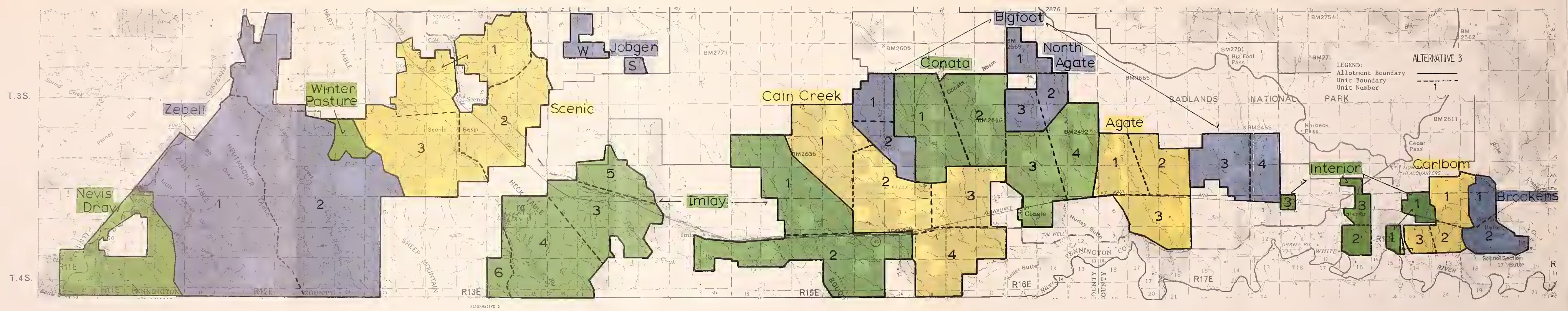




ALLOTMENT	PERMITTEE	LIVESTOCK SUITABLE			TYPE OF GRAZING	SEASON	TRAFFIC FDS ACRES ACT. 1984-85 AREA AC. CONTROL AC.
		HUNDREDS	ACRES	ACRE/AUM			
ZEBELL	Heuse Partnership	208 c/c	1,515	1.515	3 UNITS		
	Walter Buehrer	171 c/c	1,255	1.255	Rest Rotation/Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/30	
	TOTAL	379 c/c	2,770	1.544			5.4
BIGFOOT	Walter Buehrer	112 c/c	887	887	3 UNITS		
	Allegro Crooks	0 c/c	0	0	Rest Rotation/Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/30	
	TOTAL	112 c/c	887	887			3.5
BOUQUET TABLE	Ralph White	35 c/c	253	253	4 UNITS		
	Jerald Heinrichs	67 c/c	497	497	Rest Rotation/Preferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/30	
	Kudina Ranch	179 c/c	934	934			
	TOTAL	271 c/c	1,684	6.0			
BROOKENS	Horace Astott	206 c/c	1,710	7.01	2 UNITS	5/16 - 8/10	
CANE CREEK	Walter Wettcher	132 c/c	955	955	3 UNITS		
	Monte & Jalem Whitshorn	65 c/c	488	488	Rest Rotation/Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/30	
	TOTAL	197 c/c	1,443	6.8			
CARLBON	Charles Carlbon	93 c/c	1,702	587	2 UNITS	5/16 - 10/10	
CONATA	Walter Buehrer	92 c/c	719	7.19	3 UNITS		
	William Buehrer	52 c/c	371	371	Rest Rotation/Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/30	
	Donald Buehrer	67 c/c	430	430			
	TOTAL	201 c/c	1,520	2,026			4.4
HIGH DIVE	Ralph White	88 c/c	638	7.17	3 UNITS		
	Ivanne Josten	39 c/c	280	280	Rest Rotation/Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/30	
	Donald Josten	36 c/c	216	216			
	TOTAL	163 c/c	1,134	4.4			
IMLAY	Ralph White	146 c/c	1,057	7.03	Season Long/Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/30	
	Wayne White	63 c/c	457	457			
	TOTAL	209 c/c	1,514	5.0			
UNIT 3)	Fudima Knob	17 c/c	1,202	123	Season Long	5/16 - 10/30	
UNIT 4)	Ralph White	68 c/c	454	90	9	Rotates with Imlay	6/16 - 7/15
INTERIOR	Gustafson Farms, Inc.	91 c/c	1,191	703	3 UNITS	5/16 - 10/30	
JOSGEN-SUMMER	Donald Josten	59 c/c	240	210	3 UNITS	Rest Rotation/Deferred Rotation	
						Season Long	5/16 - 10/30

ALLOTMENT	PERMITTEE	LIVESTOCK SUITABLE			TYPE OF GRAZING	SEASON	TRAFFIC FDS ACRES ACT. 1984-85 AREA AC. CONTROL AC.
		HUNDREDS	ACRES	AUMS			
JOSEN-WINTER	Donald Josten	165 c/c	800	405	1-6	Winter	11/1 - 1/31
SPRING PRAIRIE	Paul Loeffler	95 c/c	748	7.48	3 UNITS		
	Alvin Littlelow	123 c/c	1,237	1.237	Rest Rotation/Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/30	
	Jurisch Estate	115 c/c	1,120	1.120			
	TOTAL	333 c/c	6,420	7,113	2.7		
WINTER PASTURE	Paul Loeffler	10 b	816	97	5.4	Winter	10/15 - 4/20
IESELL	Charles Taylor	205 c/c	1,517	1.517	3 UNITS		
	Donald Taylor Estate	156 c/c	1,237	1.237	Rest Rotation/Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/30	
	Vanda Edoff	38 c/c	276	276			
	F.H. A.	30 c/c	200	200			
	Alvin Littlelow	79 c/c	574	574			
	Donald Thorson	158 c/c	1,131	1.131			
	Shirley Eesa	61 c/c	443	443			
	TOTAL	659 c/c	7,274	6,739	3.6		

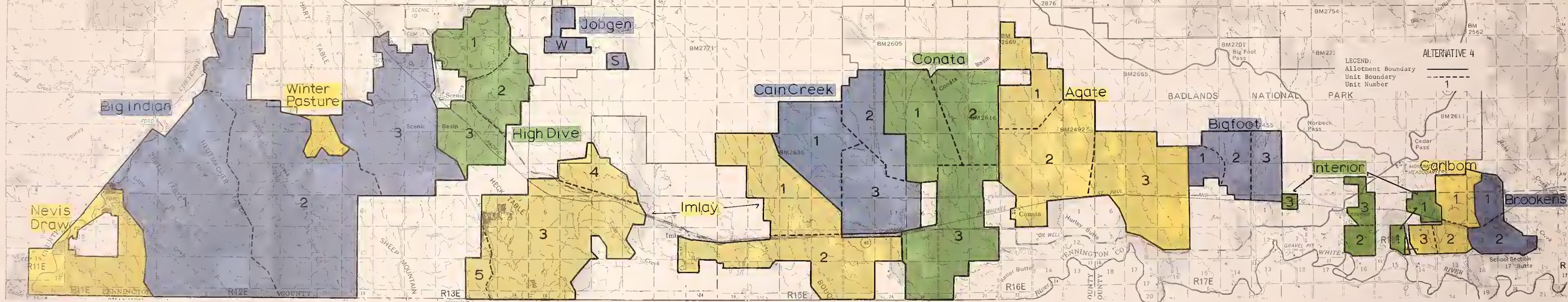




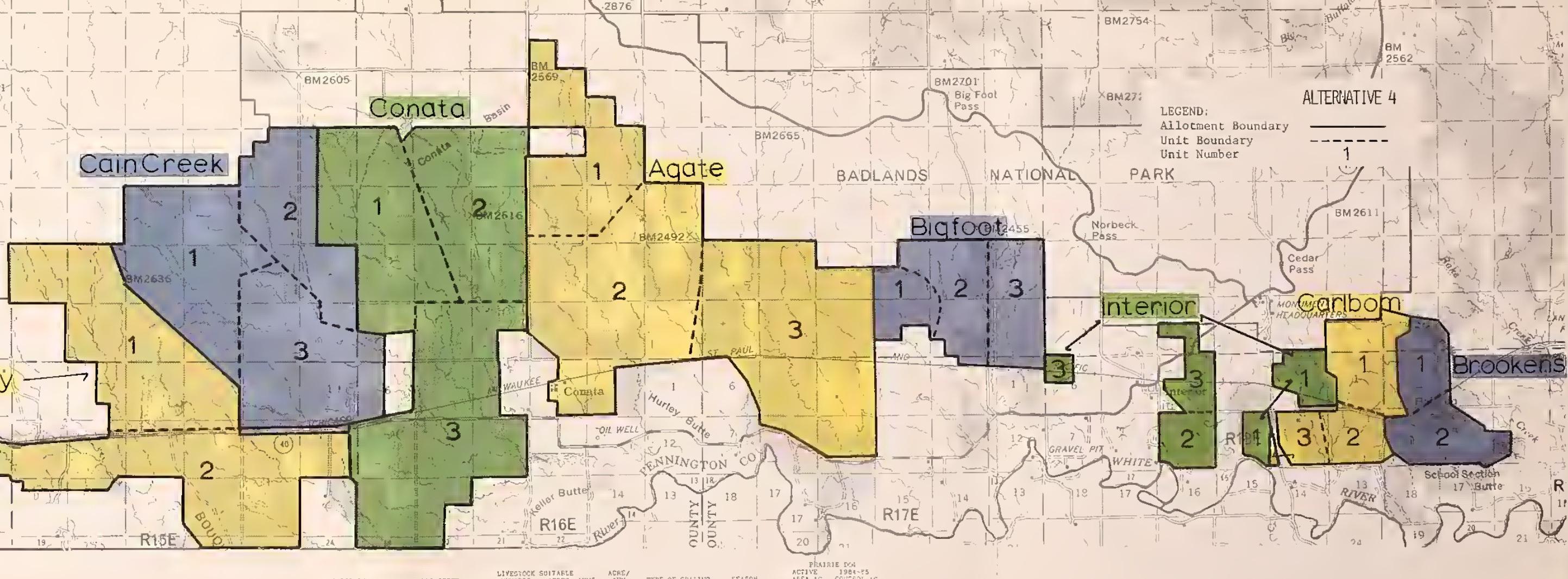
ALLOTMENT	PERMITTEE	LIVESTOCK SUITABLE			ACRE/AUMS	TYPE OF GRAZING	SEASON	FRAIRIE FOC	
		NUMBERS	ACRES	AUMS				ACTIVE AREA AC.	1984-85 CONTROL AC.
AGATE	Kruze Partnership	119 c/c	4,160	864	4.0	3 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/31		
BIGFOOT	Walter Wether Alice Gross	221 c/c	1,600	62		4 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation			
	TOTAL	330 c/c	5,670	1,065	3.4				
BRONCHO	Charles Aslato	706 c/c	1,710	751	2.0	2 UNITS Deferred	5/16 - 8/10		
CAIN CREEK	Walter Whitehead Mona & James Whitehead Jerald Belanrich	137 c/c	955			4 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation			
	TOTAL	65 c/c	459						
		67 c/c	487						
		438 c/c	11,010	1,911	4.8		5/16 - 10/31		
CARLTON	Charles Aslato	93 c/c	1,702	587	2.0	3 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/10		
CONATA	Elmer William Wether Edward Baskett	121 c/c	675			4 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation			
	TOTAL	23 c/c	677						
		67 c/c	610						
		201 c/c	12,229	7,162	5.0		5/16 - 10/31		
IMLAY	Ralph White Lynne White Ludwig Biech	160 c/c	1,310	457		4 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation			
	TOTAL	65 c/c	457						
		125 c/c	551						
		577 c/c	10,511	2,701	5.1				
UNIT 51	Ludwig Biech	17 c/c	1,222	123	10.5	Season Long	5/16 - 10/31		
UNIT 61	Ralph White	344 c/c	454	90	5.0	Rotate with Imlay	5/16 - 7/15		
INTERIOR	Gusilli Farms, Inc.	97 c/c	2,491	703	2.5	3 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/31		
JOLGEN-SUMMER	Donald Jolgen	29 c/c	240	210	1.1	Season Long	5/16 - 10/31		
JOLGEN-WINTER	Donald Jolgen	175 c/c	800	655	1.6	Winter	11/1 - 1/31		

ALLOTMENT	PERMITTEE	LIVESTOCK SUITABLE			ACRE/AUMS	TYPE OF GRAZING	SEASON	FRAIRIE FOC	
		NUMBERS	ACRES	AUMS				ACTIVE AREA AC.	1984-85 CONTROL AC.
HEVIS DRAW	En H. A. Shirley Dale	10 c/c	205	445			Season Long		
	TOTAL	61 c/c	3,359	396	4.2		5/16 - 10/31		
NORTH AGATE	Kruze Partnership	20 c/c	3,139	651	4.8		5/16 - 10/31		
SCENIC	Paul Jolgen Mervin Jolgen Donald Jolgen Jorjiah Estate Alvin Illelow Paul Illelow	39 c/c	383	630		3 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation			
	TOTAL	61 c/c	1,517	278					
		115 c/c	527						
		123 c/c	893						
		92 c/c	688						
		438 c/c	11,001	3,608	3.3		5/16 - 10/31		
WINTER PASTURE	Paul Yeller	10 b	816	87	6.4	Winter	10/15 - 4/30		
ZEBELL	Wanda Edsif Chaseney Taylor Donald Thorson Alvin Illelow Donald Taylor Estate	38 c/c	276			2 UNITS Deferred Rotation			
	TOTAL	205 c/c	1,517						
		135 c/c	1,124						
		75 c/c	574						
		206 c/c	1,222						
		746 c/c	20,405	5,453	3.7		5/16 - 10/31		





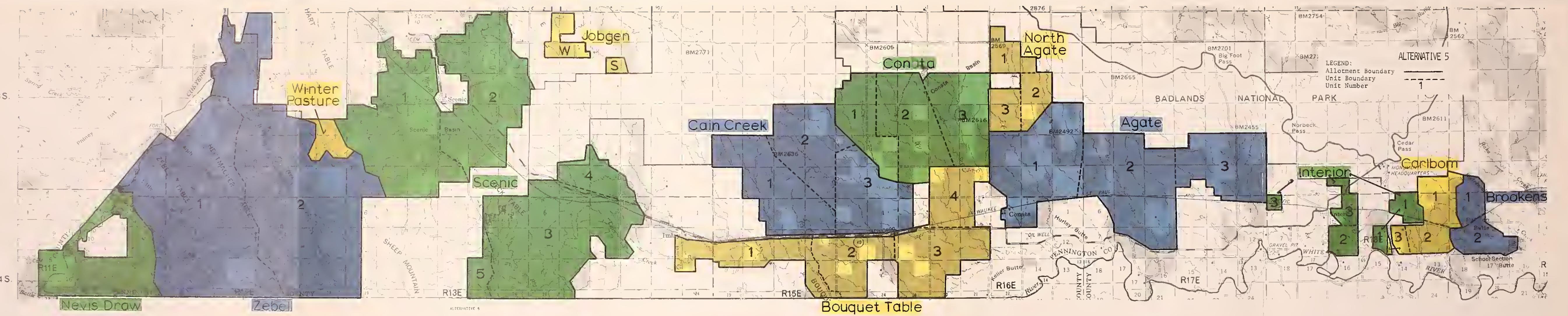
ALLOTMENT	PERMITTEE	LIVESTOCK SUITABLE			TYPE OF GRAZING	SEASON	PRAIRIE DOG ACTIVE 1984-85 AREA AC. CONTROL AC.
		NUMBERS	ACRES	AUMS			
AGATE	Eruva Partnership	209 c/o	1,615	629	3 UNITS		
	Walter	121 c/o	929	349	Deferred Rotation/		
	TOTAL	330 c/o	2,544	978	Rest Rotation/	5/16 ~ 10/31	
BIGFOOT	Walter Butcher	172 c/o	697	243	3 UNITS		
	Alles Crooks	9 c/o	62	24	Rest Rotation/		
	TOTAL	181 c/o	759	267	Deferred Rotation	5/16 ~ 10/31	
BIG INDIAN	Irvin Zietlow	202 c/o	1,467	511	3 UNITS		
	Jurisch Estate	11 c/o	652	24	Rest Rotation/		
	Paul Zietlow	65 c/o	659	249	Deferred Rotation		
	Donald Taylor Estate	22 c/o	1,22	44			
	Chancy Taylor	208 c/o	1,217	481			
	Wanda Edoff	38 c/o	276	102			
	Donald Innesco	156 c/o	1,134	446			
	TOTAL	1,041 c/o	26,895	7,846	3.4		
ERICKSON	Norman Andale	206 c/o	1,750	761	3.2	Deferred Rotation	5/16 ~ 8/10
CANE CREEK	Walter Butcher	79 c/o	719	273	3 UNITS		
	Monte & Jason Whitcher	65 c/o	669	249	Rest Rotation/		
	Walter Whitcher	54 c/o	391	147	Deferred Rotation		
	TOTAL	218 c/o	8,213	1,579	5.2		
CIRLECOM	Charles Carlboe	32 c/o	1,702	587	2.0	3 UNITS	5/16 ~ 10/31
						Rest Rotation/	
						Deferred Rotation	
CORATA	Walters Butcher	93 c/o	677	300	3 UNITS		
	Edward Hueston	62 c/o	630	249	Rest Rotation/		
	Walter Whitcher	78 c/o	74	29	Deferred Rotation		
	Jerrard Butchicha	87 c/o	487	187			
	TOTAL	352 c/o	11,782	2,358	4.0		
HIGH DIVE	Marvin Jacobsen	86 c/o	816	326	3 UNITS		
	Diane Jorgenson	39 c/o	283	107	Rest Rotation/		
	Donald Jobgen	38 c/o	276	104	Deferred Rotation		
	TOTAL	163 c/o	6,311	1,195	4.4		
IMLAY	Ralph White	180 c/o	1,310	457	3 UNITS		
	Wesley White	62 c/o	457	174	Deferred		
	Kudina Ranch	131 c/o	1,144	414			
	TOTAL	373 c/o	16,511	2,701	6.1		
UNIT 4	Kudina Ranch	17 c/o	1,122	123	10.5	Season Long	5/16 ~ 10/31
UNIT 5	Ralph White	244 c/o	454	90	5.0	Rotate with Imlay	6/16 ~ 7/15



ALLOTMENT	PERMITTEE	LIVESTOCK SUITABLE			TYPE OF GRAZING	SEASON	PRAIRIE DOG ACTIVE 1984-85 AREA AC. CONTROL AC.
		NUMBERS	ACRES	AUMS			
INTERIOR	Guptill Farms, Inc.	97 c/o	2,491	703	3.5		
					3 UNITS		
					Rest Rotated/		
					Deferred Rotation		
JOBGEN-SUMMER	Donald Jobgen	29 c/o	710	210	1.1	Season Long	5/16 ~ 10/31
JOBGEN-WINTER	Donald Jobgen	125 c/o	800	425	1.6	Winter	11/1 ~ 1/31
NEVIS DRAW	F. H. A. Shirley Bela	50 c/o	303	143	3 UNITS		
		61 c/o	310	143	Season Long		
		TOTAL	111 c/o	3,350	808		
WINTER PASTURE	Paul Lefler	10 b	810	97	0.4	Winter	10/15 ~ 4/30

ALTERNATIVE 4





ALLOTMENT	PERMITTEE	LIVESTOCK SUITABLE		ACRE/AUM	TYPE OF GRAZING	SEASON	ACTIVE AREA AC. CONTROL AC.	PRAIRIE DOG AREA AC.
		NUMBERS	ACRES					
BOUQUET TABLE	Kruuse Partnership	119 c/c	854		3 UNITS			
	Walter Hogen	113 c/c	815		Rast Rotation/Deferred Rotation			
	Walter Hogen	113 c/c	82					
	Walter Hogen	172 c/c	863					
	TOTAL	370 c/c	19,037	7,689	6.9	5/18 - 10/31		
BOUQUET TABLE	Ralph White	35 c/c	326		4 UNITS			
	Jervald Zietlow	55 c/c	487		Rast Rotation/Deferred Rotation			
	Edwards Ranch	67 c/c	457					
	TOTAL	178 c/c	1,147	954	3.8	5/18 - 10/31		
BOOKEENS	Harvin Zietlow	206 c/c	1,710	761	2.3	Deferred		
CARL CLEER	Walter Vollmer	122 c/c	555		3 UNITS			
	Monta & Jules Vollmer	122 c/c	469		Rast Rotation/Deferred Rotation			
	TOTAL	197 c/c	9,794	1,424	6.9	5/18 - 10/31		
CARLTON	Charles Carlton	92 c/c	1,702	587	2.9	First Rotation/Deferred Rotation		
CONATA	Val-Led Ranch	99 c/c	119		3 UNITS			
	Stilleg Ranch	93 c/c	61		Rast Rotation/Deferred Rotation			
	Edgar Butcher	87 c/c	820					
	TOTAL	279 c/c	8,085	2,020	4.4	5/18 - 10/31		
INTERIOR	Guptill Farms, Inc.	97 c/c	2,491	703	3.5	Deferred		
JORDAN-SUMMER	Donald Jorgenson	79 c/c	240	210	1.1	Season Long		
JORDAN-WINTER	Donald Jorgenson	125 c/c	800	405	1.6	Winter		
NEVIS DRAW	F. B. A. Shirley Dale	50 c/c	363					
	TOTAL	61 c/c	413					
WINTER GATE	Kruuse Partnership	117 c/c	9,319	800	4.2	Season Long		

ALLOTMENT	PERMITTEE	LIVESTOCK SUITABLE		ACRE/AUM	TYPE OF GRAZING	SEASON	ACTIVE AREA AC. CONTROL AC.	PRAIRIE DOG AREA AC.
		NUMBERS	ACRES					
SCENIC	Ralph White	155 c/c	684		5 UNITS			
	Wayne White	65 c/c	437		Rast Rotation/Deferred Rotation			
	Merle Johnson	86 c/c	559					
	Donald Jorgenson	133 c/c	203					
	Doseld Jorgenson	38 c/c	218					
	Alvin Zietlow	123 c/c	893					
	Joseph Estate	119 c/c	932					
	Paul Zietlow	85 c/c	688					
	TOTAL	781 c/c	19,454	5,048	3.8	5/18 - 10/31		
(UNIT 4)	Kudesse Ranch	17 c/c	1,292	123	10.3	Season Long		
(UNIT 5)	Ralph White	88 c/c	454	90	5.0	Rotates with Inley		
WINTER PASTURE	Paul Zietlow	10 b	616	67	8.4	Winter		
ZEBEL	Wanda Edeff	18 c/c	279					2 UNITS
	Donald Zietlow	209 c/c	1,117					
	Donald Thorson	159 c/c	1,134					
	Alvin Zietlow	79 c/c	374					
	Donald Taylor Estate	265 c/c	1,932					
	TOTAL	749 c/c	10,403	5,433	3.8	5/18 - 10/31		



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Many people and organizations have already expressed their views on these issues through personal contacts, the news media, letters and at various meetings and workshops. The enclosed Response Form provides you or your organization an opportunity to provide input for consideration during this analysis. Also, please contact any of the following offices if you need additional clarification or information:

Forest Supervisor  
Nebraska National Forest  
270 Pine Street  
Chadron, Nebraska 69337      Phone (308) 432-3367

District Ranger  
Buffalo Gap and Ft. Pierre National Grasslands  
Wall, South Dakota 57790      Phone (605) 279-2125

District Ranger  
Buffalo Gap National Grassland  
Star Route, Box 200  
Hot Springs, South Dakota Phone (605) 745-4107

District Ranger  
Nebraska and Samuel R. McKelvie National Forests  
P.O. Box 38  
Halsey, Nebraska 69142

District Ranger  
Nebraska National Forest and Oglala National Grassland  
HC 75, Box 13A9  
Chadron, Nebraska 69337

Copies of the 1978 Environmental Impact Statement on prairie dog management, 1981 amendment, Land and Resource Management Plan and the recent ferret habitat publication mentioned in document one are available for review at these office locations.



RESPONSE FORM

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

(OPTIONAL)

NAME/ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ZIPCODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AFFILIATION

(CHECK ONE)

Academic	(      )
Business/Industry	(      )
Concerned Citizen	(      )
Environmentalist	(      )
Government	(      )
Grazing Permittee	(      )
Grazing Association	(      )
Landowner	(      )
Natural Resource Group	(      )
Professional Society	(      )
Other	(      )

PLEASE RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS RELATING TO DOCUMENT ONE--

BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG MANAGEMENT  
ON THE  
NEBRASKA NATIONAL FOREST AND ASSOCIATED UNITS

1. Issues and Concerns (We want to know if there are additional issues and concerns that need to be considered.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_
2. Alternatives (We have presented some possible alternatives and need to know if you have others in mind.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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3. Alternatives (We want to know if you have any suggestions or comments on the alternatives [A-E] presented in Document One)

Alternative A

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Alternative B

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Alternative C

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Alternative D (Proposed Action)

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Alternative E

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4. Other Comments

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PLEASE RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS RELATING TO DOCUMENT TWO--

RANGE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES  
FOR TWO MAJOR PRAIRIE DOG AREAS-CONATA BASIN AND SCENIC BASIN-  
ON THE BUFFALO GAP NATIONAL GRASSLAND

1. Issues and Concerns (We want to know if there are additional issues and concerns that need to be considered.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Alternatives (We have presented some possible alternatives and need to know if you have others in mind.)  
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3. Alternatives (We want to know if you have any suggestions or comments on the alternatives [1-5] presented in Document Two.)  
Alternative 1  
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Alternative 2  
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Alternative 3  
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Alternative 4  
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Alternative 5

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4. Other Comments

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Please use the enclosed envelope to return your response form by December 1, 1986 to:

Forest Supervisor  
Nebraska National Forest  
270 Pine Street  
Chadron, Nebraska 69337

THANK YOU



R0001 125879



R0001 125879